

John W. Berry House  
Meadow Road and Crane Avenue  
Rutherford, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

John W. Berry House  
Meadow Road and Crane Avenue  
Rutherford, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Charles Smithson

Date of Erection: 1804

Architect:

Builder: John W. Berry

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brownstone

Exterior walls - brownstone  
up to water table, brick above

Interior walls - plaster on  
brick

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel

Historical Data:

This house was built by John W. Berry a direct descendant of Major John Berry. Major Berry purchased the strip of land upon which it stands in 1670 and built his dwelling. The present structure was attached to the north end of the old Berry homestead which was torn down in 1929 to make way for a new street. It remained in the Berry family until 1890 when it was sold for taxes. The present owner, Mr. Smith-

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son, bought the house with ten acres of ground in 1928 for a consideration of ten thousand dollars. The following year he decided to cut the property up in building lots, and at this time the older house was torn down.

Captain John Berry later Major was the first of his family in this country. He came from the Island of Barbadoes and obtained a grant of land in 1668 from Governor Carteret. This grant included all the land between the Hackensack and Saddle Rivers extending from the Sandford patent to Cherry Hill in Bergen County. He bought other tracts of land including the one upon which this house was built. This tract purchased in 1670 lay between the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers. Berry applied the name New Barbadoes to the district, which name it still bears. This tract of land remained in the Berry family from its purchase in 1670 until 1890. In his day he was one of the most important men in the colony. He served on the Governor's Council for several years and was acting Governor for a time; besides this, he was a member of the Colonial Assembly, Justice for Bergen County, and a Captain and later Major in the Militia.

Bibliography:

Westervelt, F. A. (Editor) History of Bergen County, New Jersey 3 Volumes New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1923

Harvey, C. B. Geneological History of Hudson and Bergen Counties, New Jersey New York Geneological Publishing Company, 1900

A search of Bergen County records at Hackensack and material collected by Wallace Dunlop, Bergen County Office

Valter E. Ritt  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
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